



RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE LATE THOMAS B. MASON.

WHEREAS Thomas B. Mason of Roanoke, a respected public servant and attorney, and an accomplished actor, died March 8, 2007; and

WHEREAS, born in Lynchburg on January 12, 1919, Tom Mason was the son of the late Leonard Tyree Mason and Beulah Coffey Mason; he graduated from E. C. Glass High School and Hampden-Sydney College and earned a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Tom Mason served in the United States Navy as Commander of a patrol torpedo boat, PT 179, participating in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest battle in modern history; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Tom Mason practiced law in Lynchburg from 1946-1956 and worked as a trust officer and vice-president of People's National Bank and Trust Company in Lynchburg from 1956-1961; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed him the United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia, where he served until 1969, and he and his family moved to Roanoke; and

WHEREAS, in 1969 he joined the Norfolk and Western Railway (now Norfolk-Southern Corporation) serving as a senior member of the Law Department before retiring in 1983; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Attorney's office Roanoke was named the Thomas B. Mason Building in his honor for his outstanding service; and

WHEREAS, he was an active member of the American Bar Association, the Virginia Bar Association, the Lynchburg and Roanoke Bar Associations, and the Judicial Conference of the Fourth Judicial Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, Tom Mason also loved the theater and acting at which he excelled; his notable acting career began in college; Tom Mason performed many memorable performances at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon and at the Lynchburg Little Theatre among other places; and he was acclaimed by audiences across Virginia in regional, summer, and dinner

theater productions; he also appeared in popular movies, including “Crimes of the Heart,” “Mississippi Burning,” “Harvey,” “On Golden Pond,” and “Gods and Generals,” as well as seven television films, and

WHEREAS, Tom Mason was also a faithful member of First Presbyterian Church of Roanoke, having served as a deacon, elder, and trustee, and was active in many missions of the church in the community; and

WHEREAS, above all Tom Mason was devoted to his family; he and his lovely wife Emily shared a wonderful life together for 58 years and cherished their two beloved daughters, Martha and Polly, and three loving grandchildren, Luke, Courtney, and Mason; and,

WHEREAS, Tom Mason will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his loving family and his numerous friends and admirers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roanoke Bar Association laments the passing of Thomas B. Mason, and holds his memory and his contributions to this Association, to this community, and to the cause of justice in high regard; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be furnished to the Circuit Courts of the City and County of Roanoke and the City of Salem and the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, Roanoke Division, with motions that the resolution be spread upon the permanent common law order books of those courts; and that copies of this resolution be furnished to his family to communicate the esteem in which the Roanoke Bar Association holds him and his memory and the Association’s sorrow at his passing.

GIVEN under the hands of the President and Secretary of the Roanoke Bar Association and the seal of the Association this 9th day of October, 2007.

President, Roanoke Bar Association

TESTE:

Secretary, Roanoke Bar Association